

## MORTON SIGNS THE GREATER CITY BILL.

Continued from First Page

dustriously circulated for immediate effect upon the Kings County delegates to the St. Louis Convention who want to break away from the McKinley camp.

Mayor Wurster when he was here the other day was fed plentifully upon this sort of argument.

With a mental keenness that Irving Bishop might have envied, Mr. Platt knew three weeks ago that Mr. Morton would sign the Greater New York bill. It is strongly suspected that the explanations Mr. Morton's friends are now entering into had their origin in the nimble brain of the Tiohan leader, and were first used upon the Governor when he began to consider the bill.

## SETH LOW DECLINED.

Said to Have Refused a Commission, and Hewitt Don't Want It.

Albany, N. Y., May 11.—The question of Commissioners is giving the Governor much trouble. It was said at the executive chamber this evening that no appointments might be made for three weeks. Some personal applications for these places have been made, but they come from persons who under no circumstances would be appointed.

It is rumored that Seth Low, when sound on the subject, refused to act as Commissioner.

Abram S. Hewitt, it is said, intimated he would not leave for the honor. The Governor is believed to favor ex-Mayors on the assumption that they would know all about civic problems.

Here are some names among which the prospective Commissioners are pretty certain to be found: Seth Low, J. S. T. Stranahan, of Brooklyn; Ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, ex-Mayor Thomas F. Gilroy, ex-Mayor David A. Boody, of Brooklyn, Henry George, Charles Stewart Smith, Alexander E. Orr, William Steinhilber, S. V. R. Oranger, ex-Mayor Ely, Oswald Ottenber, and ex-Mayor Charles S. Schlerer, of Brooklyn.

## GREAT JOY IN BROOKLYN.

Consolidationists Who Have Long Favored the Great City Express Gratification.

To the Editor of the Journal:

I am gratified beyond measure to learn that the Governor has given his approval to the Greater New York bill. I have not doubted for an instant that he would do so. His act sets at rest a great commercial question. We will at once feel the impulse of a change in many ways for the better within the whole territory. Those who have worked steadfastly in the cause will continue. Those who have opposed will now join us, and all strive for the best ultimate results. In history the signature of the Governor to this measure will rank with that of Abraham Lincoln's signature to the emancipation proclamation.

*E. J. [Signature]*

Member of the First Consolidation Commission.

A. Abraham, of Abraham & Straus: I feel very jubilant tonight, for I am one of the very few original consolidationists. This is a great event for Brooklyn, and also for New York. It will be a great thing commercially, for it will make New York, and away from the North River, the United States, and it will be spoken of with the same pride that Paris is when France is mentioned, and as London is when we talk about England. In a material sense Brooklyn will reap great advantages. Real estate will certainly advance in both value and rental value, and before many more years have passed the large majority of the residential population of Greater New York will be located on this side of the East River. We have long wanted and now we will get more bridges and increased railroad facilities. Instead of spending \$20,000,000 for that proposed hole-in-the-ground railroad on Manhattan Island which will only take people along a narrow line north and south, one-fifth of the amount should be used for the construction of two bridges across the East River, and with economical and honest management they could be built for that \$10,000,000. Then there would be facilities for carrying people from their places of business to near at hand homes, and we would also have a partial solution of the rapid transit problem. Connections should be made between the elevated railroads of the two cities by means of all the bridges. We are to be one in union and we should be one in sentiment. Furthermore, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which now has a terminus on Staten Island, could reach Long Island by means of a tunnel across the Narrows and then connect with a shore line road which should run from Bay Ridge to Astoria, and from there across so as to reach the tracks of the Central and the New Haven roads. In that way the vast quantities of coal which come to Brooklyn and the enormous number of barrels of sugar which are sent from the refineries in Williamsburg to the West, the East and the North could be transported at greatly reduced freight charges. It has been estimated by careful calculations that the annual cost of bringing coal across from New Jersey to Brooklyn would, in itself, pay the interest on the capital necessary to make this tunnel connection and shore line freight road. The vast manufacturing industries of Brooklyn could be materially enlarged if the cost of power was diminished and the facilities for sending goods away were enlarged. Truly Brooklyn is one of the most difficult cities in this country to get into or to get out of. With Greater New York a reality I am confident that that condition of affairs will be greatly changed.

James Matthews, president of the Consolidation League, have had a hard and a long fight and now the victory is won. Brooklyn's future is assured. It is her destiny to be an important, if not the most important, part of the grandest city in the world.

Fire Commissioner William Cullen Bryant Governor Morton did exactly right in signing the bill after the Legislature had passed it twice. In fact, there was no other course for him to take. Now that con-

## MORTON COMMENDS UNION.

His Reasons for Signing the Bill Uniting Great Cities, as Expressed in His Memorandum.

Albany, N. Y., May 11.—Governor Morton sent the Greater New York bill to the Secretary of State, after affixing his signature, and accompanying it was the following memorandum:

THE CITIES. This bill, as its title indicates is intended to provide the basis for a consolidation of the counties of New York, Kings and Richmond and a part of Queens into one great city. The territory embraced in the area of the proposed city aggregates nearly 215 square miles and contains over 3,000,000 of inhabitants. The municipalities to be included in the proposed consolidation have attained their present condition through many years of gradual growth, and each has acquired an individuality incident to its location, its peculiar social, business and political conditions, and the different characteristics of the people who have made it what it is. The growth, development and expansion of a great city in the ordinary way by the gradual accretions of wealth, territory and population excites no special attention, except by comparisons between different periods, but the consolidation of great municipalities, like those included in this bill, by an act of the Legislature, presents many complex questions.

To effect a proper consolidation of this territory, with its diverse interests, into one municipality there must be provided a harmonious government, an equitable system of taxation, a fair adjustment of the several existing municipal debts, and homogeneous arrangements of executive, judicial and administrative functions. Many of the existing functions cannot be constitutionally amalgamated or disturbed by any attempted consolidation. The autonomy of the counties must be preserved until changed by constitutional amendment. Boards of Supervisors must be re-established in the counties of Kings and Richmond, and the Board of Aldermen, existing in the county of Richmond must be retained. The parts of the consolidated territory lying in the county of Queens will still remain in that county unless annexed to other counties; but such annexation cannot affect existing Senate, Assembly or Judicial districts. The constitutional offices provided for each county, including certain judicial tribunals, must continue.

Certain police and administrative functions cannot be wholly destroyed or made subordinate to city supervision, and therefore the consolidated city there must continue to be dual government, partly the creation of the constitutional limitations and restrictions, and beyond the control of the city government and partly municipal government.

THE DUAL GOVERNMENT. The creation of statutes, providing for municipal government within the same territorial limits. How far the Legislature may go in amalgamating city and county governments will be one of the important problems for the consideration of the Legislature.

The bill declares in substance that consolidation shall become complete on the first day of January, 1898, but this declaration evidently cannot have the full force which its terms would indicate, because no provision is made for the government of the consolidated territory, and it is expressly provided by Section 2 that: "For all purposes the local administration and government of the territories in Section 1 of this act enumerated shall remain in, and be performed and exercised by the respective bodies, politic and corporate, which they are now entrusted, until the consolidation of the territories in this act shall have been completed."

By the terms of the bill there can be no disturbance of existing offices until the Legislature has made further provision for the government of the new city.

Practically, the only effective provision in the bill is found in Section 3, which provides for the appointment of a commission to prepare and submit to the next Legislature "a bill for the government of the municipal corporation, of the Mayor, Aldermen, and commonality of the City of New York, as provided by this act." This bill, by its title, is charged with the performance of a difficult task; and it is urged that it cannot be done within the brief time given by the bill to prepare a charter for the great municipality which will be satisfactory to the next Legislature and the inhabitants of the new city, as well as to the other people of the State, who unnecessarily feel a deep interest in this subject. This possibility is not, however, a sufficient objection to warrant my disapproval of the bill.

The plan for the proposed consolidation began to take definite shape in 1860, when by chapter 481, of the laws of that year, a commission was created to inquire into the expediency of consolidating the various municipalities in the State of New York, occupying the several islands in the harbor of New York.

The Commission gave the subject full and careful consideration, with the result that a new city was proposed, including the territory already indicated, namely: the counties of New York, Kings, Richmond, and parts of the County of Queens, by chapter 481, of the laws of 1860. The question of the proposed consolidation was submitted to a vote of the people of the territory included in the plan, as then outlined; which vote was to be and was, in fact, taken at the general election in November, 1864. Upon this vote there was a majority of 44,188 in favor of consolidation.

The commission appointed by the law of 1860 presented a report to the Legislature of 1865, setting forth by communities the result of the vote discussing some questions incident to consolidation and proposing a bill providing for the preparation of a charter for the government of the consolidated city. No bill was passed at that session, but the commission's bill, with some modifications, has been passed this year, and is the bill now under executive consideration. In accordance with the requirements of the new constitution, the bill was sent to the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Long Island City for their action. It was accepted by the municipal authorities of Long Island City, but was returned by the Mayors of Brooklyn and New York without acceptance.

In a communication addressed to the Legislature, the Mayor of Brooklyn says that "under favorable conditions and on fair terms, consolidation of the municipalities referred to in this bill may be of decided benefit," but objects to the bill on the grounds, among others, that it is not essential to the well-being of the City of Brooklyn, that it be consolidated with the other municipalities "irrespective of terms or conditions."

That under the terms of this bill it is impossible, perhaps probable, that no change will ever be introduced as a complete instrument, but that consolidation may be effected, if at all, by a series of separate bills; that the creation of a new city will necessitate the re-establishment of a Board of Supervisors in the County of Kings; that "it would be most disastrous to the interests of good economical government to have that board and the old form of County government restored to life"; and because it contains no provisions requiring the terms and conditions of consolidation to be submitted to the people.

STONED'S commercial interests of New York demand consolidation. The geographical location of the city and its natural facilities as a commerce point, mark it as the metropolis of this continent, and its commercial and manufacturing interest will establish it as such, and the very fact of a municipality so largely increased in population and boundaries, will of itself advance the value of property, invite capital, enlarge commerce, and in innumerable ways increase the power inherent in so large a community. No bill was passed at that session, but the commission's bill, with some modifications, has been passed this year, and is the bill now under executive consideration. In accordance with the requirements of the new constitution, the bill was sent to the cities of New York, Brooklyn, and Long Island City for their action. It was accepted by the municipal authorities of Long Island City, but was returned by the Mayors of Brooklyn and New York without acceptance.

He does not favor the submission of a proposed charter to a popular vote, but thinks that Consolidation should not be decreed until the Legislature adopts a charter finally uniting the sections to make up the Greater New York. He regards Consolidation as inevitable, and objects only to the method of effecting it contemplated by this bill.

The three cities named are the only municipalities affected, to which the constitution requires a submission of the pending bill. It may be properly assumed that a charter prepared by the Commission will provide fair terms to all the localities affected; and as the Mayors of the three cities are to be members of the Commission, their suggestions will have great weight in framing a charter upon conditions favorable to their respective cities. All localities affected will be heard, and all interests will be considered by the Commission, and until a charter of government, which may be prepared shall be approved by the Legislature, there can be no change of existing conditions.

In my annual message to the Legislature of 1895, attention was called to this subject, and I then suggested that "it would be the duty of the Legislature to take such further steps as are necessary to carry into effect the wishes of the people," as expressed by the vote taken in 1894. I also suggested that "a commission be at once created composed of the most capable citizens of the various counties interested, and charged with the power and duty to frame a charter of government, which may be prepared shall be approved by the Legislature, there can be no change of existing conditions."

To the commission provided by the bill the pending problems concerning consolidation are for the time being transferred, and I have no hesitation in expressing the conviction that it will be able to devise a scheme of municipal government alike creditable to its members, competent for the great purposes desired, and promotive of the highest interests of the State.

LEVI P. MORTON.

consolidation is assured, I hope that it will be productive of all the beneficial results that even the most sanguine of annexationists have claimed would surely result, and, furthermore, I believe that it will, I am very much in favor of making William Herli a member of the Commission.

Health Commissioner Dr. Zachary Taylor Emery: What I have said repeatedly in the face of opposition, I reiterate now, that victory is virtually secured. I am in favor of Greater New York. It will benefit immensely the people of this city, and it will out those that are already projected, because we will have a share of the immense revenue which New York now enjoys. Lower taxes will be another blessing which we of Brooklyn will get. I hope and believe that Governor Morton will appoint only men of the

## POLITICS OF UNION.

Republicans Lauterbach and Wurster and Tammany Sheehan Disagree.

[Edward Lauterbach.]

To the Editor of the Journal:

The signing of the bill by the Governor will render him immortal, he having conferred upon the people of the Empire State the greatest boon ever accorded them.

It means that the metropolis of America will start on a new career that will render it perhaps within a decade the equal in commercial prosperity of London itself. Politically, I believe it will make of two Democratic cities one great Republican city.

*Edward Lauterbach*

## DEMOCRATS IN CONTROL.

[Mayor Wurster.]

Ever since the Legislature passed the Greater New York bill over the opposition of Mayor Strong and myself, I have been of the opinion that Governor Morton would sign it. I am now glad to see that Governor Morton in his message drew the attention of the Legislature to the question of consolidation, and, if he had not then been in favor of the measure, I do not believe he would have taken that step. When I was at Albany looking after some of our important bills Governor Morton informed me that he would sign the Greater New York bill. At the same time he said that the bill did little else but allow him to appoint the Commission, and that, when any charter was framed, it would not be too late even then to refer the matter to the people of Brooklyn before its final enactment. Now, politics has no place in this matter, but since the question has been asked me, I am willing to say that I believe that the consolidation of Brooklyn and New York and environs will make the Greater New York surely Democratic by a heavy majority. That is not a good thing. It isn't for the best interests of the people to have any party largely in the majority in a city. Large majorities lead to corruption, or bad government at least. Brooklyn has been pretty evenly balanced—one party winning in one election and the other at the next. Elections of this kind are for the best interest of the whole people, and are calculated to promote honest and intelligent conduct of municipal affairs.

## TAMMANY ON TOP.

[John G. Sheehan.]

The local organization of the Democratic party has nothing to fear from this greater city. It can do nothing but strengthen its power here. At the first election after it goes into effect we will gain at least 75,000 votes over the Republicans. They have simply cut off their own noses to spite their faces. Why they should advocate the passage of this bill I do not know. We wanted it all the time, knowing that it would be sure to banish us. Our opposition to it was a game of politics, pure and simple. Of course, the fact of the Greater New York is too far off, January 1, 1898, for me or any one else to particularize as to its effects, but it is safe to generalize and say that Tammany Hall will only be more powerful and more popular than it ever was. We expect to get the next Governor and the next Legislature, and then the glory and credit of the greater city, if any there be of either, will accrue to us and to no one else. We will have it in our power to accept or reject the greater city, and it may never become a fact. We are certainly glad that the Republicans have done as we wanted them to do in this matter.

## MAKE THE BIG CITY FREE.

Mayor Gleason Expects to See the United Municipality Separated from the State and Self-Governed.

Editor Journal:

The principal thing to look for is the appointment of good business men as Governor, who will understand the laws which we have been governed by in years past. How to make it one of the greatest cities of the world, means a great deal of hard work on the part of those men commissioned to do so.

In the first place we have a great bond indebtedness, both in New York and Brooklyn, and in my list city of Long Island City as well we have a large bond of indebtedness. How this bond of indebtedness shall be placed among the different cities and towns as to the respective valuations of the different places incorporated in this bill is the first duty of the commission, and upon which the future government will be based upon, because, upon the financial condition of Greater New York depends the conduct of the different departments of the city government, such as the Police Department, Fire Department and other municipal departments of that government.

What I expect to see over here will be more bridges over the East River, and the easier of access to New York than at present, with leading boulevards throughout the county, which will be the great driveway for New York people that are now hampered in this respect in New York City.

This commission must have men with not only ability but with backbone to withstand the criticisms of those who have opposed and will continue to oppose the union of these cities until such a time as it will be in fact the Greater City of New York.

The next thing I expect to see will be a new State made out of this new city; then we would be controlled by self government, and we would not be dependent upon those hazy leaders up the State who make laws for us which they know nothing about. Then we would be in accordance with home rule.

The equalization of assessment of each of these great cities is one of the most important features in framing this bill.

*Patrick J. Gleason*

most eminent ability and honesty on the Consolidation Commission. Politics will, I hope, be ignored altogether in its makeup and in its workings. The interests of the two cities have long been closely interwoven. A great deal of capital used in New York commerce and banking belongs to residents of Brooklyn, who have enjoyed all the benefits that they will under consolidation. In some respects the governmental affairs of Brooklyn are away ahead of those of New York and I hope that in drafting the charter of the new municipality the best features of Brooklyn's charter will be incorporated. So far the Brooklyn Health Department is concerned it is superior to that of New York in several respects, but yet it lacks some of the powers New York's department has, especially those in relation to the abatement of nuisances.

## THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

LAW PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE UNION OF CITIES INTO GREATER NEW YORK.

An Act consolidating the local governments of the territory within the city and county of New York, the counties of Kings and Richmond, Long Island City and the towns of Newtown, Flushing and Jamaica, and part of the town of Hempstead, in the county of Queens, and providing for the preparation of bills for enactment into laws for the government thereof.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. All the municipal corporations and part of municipal corporations, other than counties, within the following territory, to wit: The County of Kings, the County of Richmond, the city of Long Island City, the towns of Newtown, Flushing and Jamaica, and that part of town of Hempstead, in the County of Queens, which is westerly of a straight line drawn from the southeasterly point of the town of Flushing through the middle of the channel between Rockaway Beach and Shelter Island, in the County of Queens, to the Atlantic Ocean, are hereby consolidated with the municipal corporation known as the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonality of the City of New York.

Sec. 2. For all purposes the local administration and government of the territories in section one of this act enumerated shall remain in and be performed and exercised by the respective bodies, politic and corporate, to which they are now entrusted, until and except so far as hereafter changed by authority of law; and for such purposes, and until such time, and except to such extent, the said bodies politic and corporate shall continue to exist, and to possess the same rights, properties, privileges and franchises, and to exercise the same powers, and discharge the same duties, and be subject to the same liabilities, and the various officers thereof shall be elected or appointed in the same manner, as heretofore.

Sec. 3. The President of the commission appointed under chapter three hundred and eleven of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety, the Mayor respectively of the city of New York, Brooklyn and Long Island City, the State Engineer and Surveyor, the Attorney-General and nine other persons, residents of the territory of said municipal corporation as so enlarged, who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall be Commissioners, and are hereby authorized and directed, on or before the first day of February, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, to make a final report to the Legislature, and to submit therewith such bills as will, upon their enactment into laws, provide a government for the municipal corporation, the Mayor, Aldermen and commonality of the City of New York as by this act enlarged, and, among other things, for obtaining an equal and uniform rate of taxation, and of valuation for the purpose of taxation, throughout the whole of the territory and of the said municipal corporation as so enlarged, and that said commission shall cause to exist on the first day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, said commission may, in and for the performance of said work, employ counsel and such other persons as it may deem necessary, and fix their compensation; subpoena witnesses, compel the production before it of any public record or document of any of the bodies politic or corporate aforesaid, administer oaths, and examine thereunder any persons touching the said subject-matter hereby committed to its charge; and each of the said bodies politic hereby committed to its charge, and each of the said subject-matters hereby committed to its charge, shall be directed, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, to furnish to the said Commission, or its representative, free access at all reasonable hours, to all such records and documents, and all information within its possession or under its control. The said Commission shall proceed as continuously as may be with the work aforesaid, and shall, from time to time, report to the Legislature its progress therein, and its recommendations, and shall prepare and submit such recommendations, with a proposed charter, for enactment, embodying such recommendations, and its recommendations, or bills for the government of such consolidated municipality, and providing further for the election of a Mayor and the other municipal officers therein provided for, at the general election to be held in the year A. D. eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

Sec. 4. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the Mayor of the City of New York and Brooklyn shall raise such proportion each of the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars as the value of all its real property, as fixed by the Board of State Assessors for the purpose of State taxation, bears to the aggregate value, as so fixed, of all the real property in both cities. . . .

Sec. 5. Nothing in this act contained shall be construed as attempting or intending to affect, in any way, the boundaries, governments, rights, powers, duties, obligations, limitations or disabilities of any county, or officer thereof, as fixed by the Constitution, or otherwise.

Sec. 6. Section one of this act shall take effect on the first day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight; sections two, three, four and five of this act shall take effect immediately.

## CITY OFFICERS COMMENT

Views of New York's Mayor, Comptroller, Counsel and Board of Education President on Consolidation.

Mayor Strong: The Governor had the right to do as he pleased, and he did as he pleased.

Comptroller Fitch: First, tell me, has the Governor really signed the bill? Is that so? Then I will merely make this statement: Whatever is, is right. That is absolutely all that I can say.

Corporation Counsel Scott: I said all that I could say against the act before it was passed, and now that we are beaten, it is no use crying. I do not mean that the present bill will affect the law department of this city at all. I suppose some changes will eventually be made. Such laws as the new Commissioners may suggest I suppose will govern us later.

President of the Board of Education McLane: I was natural on the question of Greater New York, but it was because I was certain and we all knew that the bill would become law, that I opposed the last school bill. Our late system had been in existence for fifty years, and I said, let us have it at least a year longer, when we might have got up a school bill which might have been accepted. All the places now included in Greater New York have school systems different from ours, and the Commissioners appointed under the bill will have to study them out, so that the greater city may be brought under the same head. I presume the bill therefore practically nullifies the new school bill, and we must have other legislation. In Brooklyn, for instance, the system is quite different to ours. They have a much larger number of Commissioners, each one of which acts as our late trustees, having so many schools under their charge. It will all straighten out, doubtless, but there was a much easier way if our new school bill had not been forced upon us.

Louis F. Haffen, Commissioner of Street Improvements of the Twenty-third and Twen-

ty-fourth Wards: The bill will not affect us in any appreciable way so far as I can see now. But the people of the North Side and not in favor of creating the river to get new territory. We believe it would be more advantageous to the city to make such annexation only from the north. There will always be jealousies, I think, between New York and Brooklyn, which will lead to bitter fights, whereas, as the people to the north of us come into the city willingly. It will only be a short time until Mount Vernon will be glad to get within the fold, and Yonkers will soon follow. Everybody up here is in favor of annexing territory, but they want it to be added from above and not from the side.

## STATEN ISLAND OPINION.

Residents of Clifton, Rosebank and New Brighton Grati-fied at the Signing of the Bill by the Governor.

Rev. John C. Eccleston, of St. John's Church, Clifton, said: "Being one of the oldest residents of the island, and for over forty years spending my energy in behalf of the people, it is natural that I am pleased, or, I may say, joyful, that Governor Morton has signed the bill. It is a good thing for the people in many ways. The Governor is sure to appoint as members of the Charter Commission men of high character, in whom the people will have absolute confidence."

In a memorial sent to the Legislature last year, accompanying a copy of the proposed Consolidation act, Mr. Green, referring to the conflicting conditions that must be taken into consideration and provided for in the charter, said:

"In any thorough consideration of this subject the three prominent conditions that must sooner or later be dealt with, namely, debt, taxation and valuation. It seems but reasonable that those intending a partnership should each bring some contribution toward the partnership which is formed. The indebtedness of the divisions proposed to be united (not only in the island, but as does the rate of taxation and the percentage that the valuation for taxation bears to the actual value. In the city of New York the debt of the city and county are practically the same, and though this debt differs in details as to maturity and rate of interest, it is one debt, and its volume easily ascertained. There is also but one rate of taxation and one standard for valuation."

In Brooklyn it is very different. There are some forty odd rates of taxation, each higher than that of New York, and there exists both a county and a city debt. Compared with the simpler condition of New York, this is confusing. It must be adjusted. . . . In such a case that ultimately within the whole area of the greater city one equal rate of valuation for taxation, one equal rate of taxation and one debt-contracting authority only shall exist."

George W. Finney, Jr., District-Attorney of Richmond County: "I am delighted to learn that the Governor has signed the bill. I have never entertained a doubt that he would sign it, and I consider the reasons

contained in his memorandum a full and sufficient answer to all objections. It means a new era for Staten Island."

C. A. Hart, ex-County Clerk: "Nothing that has ever occurred means so much to Richmond County as consolidation. Every property owner on Staten Island is worth more to-night than he was yesterday. It will bring capital and progress to us along every line." James E. Mulligan, Postmaster at New Brighton: "I hope it will benefit Staten Island. I voted against consolidation and have had no reason to change my views. I think there are many in the county who would vote against it if they had it to do again. I believe Staten Island would be much better and more progressively governed as a separate city."

H. G. Van Vechten, of New Brighton, real estate agent: "I am glad it is signed. I believe it will benefit Staten Island in every way. The benefits may not be realized at once, but they will come."

## FATHER OF UNION.

Andrew H. Green and His Struggles for the Greater City.

Andrew H. Green started the Greater New York movement in 1868, and has worked for its consummation unceasingly. When Mr. Green was told yesterday afternoon that the Governor had signed the bill he remarked:

"I knew he would." Mr. Green is not a man who betrays his emotions. He is reserved to a degree, but yesterday his face fairly glowed with pleasure. He is not an unkindly face at any time. Yesterday it was radiant with beneficence and pride.

Mr. Green will be a member of the Greater New York Commission, which will be charged with the duty of formulating a plan of government for the metropolis. He will probably be president of that commission, as he was of the one appointed in 1860 to ascertain the wishes of the people concerning consolidation.

When asked yesterday whether, in the course of his labors for consolidation, he had not outlined or drafted a charter for the government of the big city, he said he had formed certain ideas, but had not put them in the form of a draft of a charter. It would be indelicate, he thought, for him to make those ideas public prior to their submission to and discussion by his fellow-commissioners, whose appointment had not yet been announced. He said, however, that "there should be a condensed government, formed on a popular basis, to attend to the local affairs of the city, a government corresponding to the newly acquired dignity and importance of the great metropolis."

"When I started the movement in 1868," continued Mr. Green, "by sending a memorial to the Legislature advocating the annexation of the outlying portions of Westchester County as part of the city of New York, mere mention was made of the location of the city of Brooklyn in the consolidation scheme. Nothing further was done until 1873, when a bill, drafted by me, adding the towns of Fordham, West Farms and Morrisania to New York was passed."

"In 1889 I sent to the Legislature the draft of a bill for the creation of a Commission of Inquiry into the expediency of consolidating Brooklyn, Long Island City, and the other sections embraced in the present bill, into the Greater New York. It failed to pass that year, but was adopted the next."

In 1893 we went to the Legislature with a bill providing for this consolidation, but it failed to pass. In 1894 we succeeded in passing a bill submitting the question of consolidation to a popular vote in the sections affected. It was voted on that Fall, with a majority of 45,000 in favor of the Greater New York.

"Then, in 1895, a bill to effect the consolidation, in obedience to the mandate of the people, was introduced. It passed the Assembly by a large majority, but failed in the Senate by one vote. The more recent history of the legislation is too familiar to the public to require extended reference. Of course, I am delighted that Governor Morton has signed the bill. It is a good thing for the people in many ways. The Governor is sure to appoint as members of the Charter Commission men of high character, in whom the people will have absolute confidence."

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In Brooklyn it is very different. There are some forty odd rates of taxation, each higher than that of New York, and there exists both a county and a city debt. Compared with the simpler condition of New York, this is confusing. It must be adjusted. . . . In such a case that ultimately within the whole area of the greater city one equal rate of valuation for taxation, one equal rate of taxation and one debt-contracting authority only shall exist."

## GOVERNOR MORTON BUSY.

Besides the Greater New York Bill, Fifty-three Measures Received His Signature Yesterday.

Albany, May 11.—Governor Morton was a busy man yesterday, notwithstanding the hot weather. Besides the Greater New York bill, the Governor affixed his signature to fifty-three of the bills left on his desk when the Legislature adjourned.

Among the more important measures which were made laws are the following: A bill providing for the completion of Riverside Park, in New York City, and appropriating \$100,000.

Prohibiting the laying out of roads through certain grounds of the University of the City of New York.

Senator Guy's, authorizing the alteration of maps and profiles of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards of New York City.

